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19 October 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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On 19 October at the request of [REDACTED] I participated in a discussion at the Library of Congress in the Office of the Assistant Director of the Reference Department.

The Reference Department is preparing a recommendation for the Librarian of Congress on the types of publications which it believes should be stored outside of Washington in order to best serve Congress and other Federal Agencies in the event of dispersal or disaster. In this respect the Department was seeking the advice and guidance of many Government Librarians to be sure that all special needs were considered.

I informed them that the CIA Library was not established as a research library and, therefore, relied very heavily on the Library of Congress for required reference and research publications. Based on an analysis of current CIA requests to the Library of Congress, I suggested that the following be considered for storage elsewhere: (1) a core collection of basic reference materials commonly required for research work; (2) all Soviet and Satellite publications with imprint date of 1920 or later, in any subject field; (3) a reproduction of the Union Catalog, which shows the location of publications elsewhere in the United States; and, the Library of Congress Public Catalog, which describes the holdings of the Congressional Library.

The meeting lasted for half an hour and at the close, the Assistant Director of the Reference Department stated that he would be pleased to receive additional comments and guidance from CIA relative to this matter at any time in the future. No mention was made by me of any CIA planning along these lines.

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cc: [REDACTED] COAPS ✓  
Chief, Reference Branch

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